

Carter will soon decide on neutron bomb

WASHINGTON, July 6 (R). — President Carter will decide soon after the middle of August whether the United States should produce the deadly neutron bomb, the White House announced today. The new weapon is designed to kill people by radiation without causing widespread damage to property. In a three-hour secret session last Friday, the Senate defeated by one vote an effort to hold back production funds. White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said a study of the new weapon would be concluded about Aug. 15 and the president would make a decision soon after that date.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورنال تايمز عربية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Schmidt visits North America

BONN, July 6 (R). — West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt left tonight for a North American tour, hoping to bridge differences with his hosts on how best to stem nuclear arms proliferation and defend human rights in communist states. Herr Schmidt's eight-day stay in Canada and the United States will include his first White House meeting with President Carter.

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King Hussein starts talks in Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH, July 6 (R). — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Medina today aboard a private plane from Amman for a two-day state visit to Saudi Arabia and talks with King Khalid.

The Jordanian monarch was accompanied by a delegation including Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Sheriff Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Chief of the Royal Court, and Lt.-Gen. Zaid Ibn Shaker, commander of the armed forces.

Official sources in Amman had said that, apart from discussing bilateral relations and the Middle East situation, King Hussein would confer with the Saudi monarch on the coordination of efforts in preparation for a tour of the Middle East later this month by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

King Hussein had similar talks in Syria with President Hafiz Assad two weeks ago and is due to visit Egypt later for discussions with President Anwar Sadat.

His Highness Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as viceroy during the King's absence.

After saying prayers at the Prophet Mohammed Mosque in Medina, King Hussein flew on to Jeddah where official talks with King Khalid began.

During the two-hour session both sides analysed current Arab problems and boosting Arab and bilateral coordination.

The meeting between the two monarchs was attended by the Jordanian delegation and by Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, Defence and Aviation Minister, Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and the personal adviser to King Khalid, Dr. Rashad Farouk, from Saudi side.

King Hussein later conferred with Prince Fahd at his guest residence.

King Hussein said in an interview published yesterday in Kuwait that the Arabs had given all they can to serve peace in the Middle East and could give no more.

Speaking to the Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al Siyassah, the King also said the American administration understood the position of the Arabs and was "sincere in seeking a solution."

He believed the Arabs should define their concept of peace in a way that gave Arab solidarity a genuine meaning. "It is unreasonable that we should appear in different and divergent opinions before the world, while Israel presented one unified opinion," he was quoted as saying.

The King had been told that certain Western intellectuals believed that if the Arabs announced their recognition of Israel, Israel would be embarrassed as it only wanted expansion and not recognition.

In an interview with the Egyptian news magazine, Al Siyasi (The Statesman), published yesterday, the King complained that Jordan's arms purchases had hit a snag due to lack of finance.

He was quoted by the Cairo magazine as saying that Jordan had been forced to cancel some arms deals due to lack of response from the rich Arab states.

When told by the editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siyassah that Arab oil states believed he was asking too much from them at the expense of their development plans, the King said: "All that we want (from those states) is to realise that the danger threatening the 'confrontation' states -- Egypt, Syria and Jordan -- is one which threatens them also."

"I would like to say frankly that we receive financial support and aid from the oil states and we are thankful despite our dire need which made us reduce our armed forces -- something which is harmful."

"We do not ask for anything specific. They know our problems and the decision is theirs alone," the King was quoted as saying.



TAKEN FOR QUESTIONING -- Israeli policeman, holds young Arab boy and takes him away from near scene of bomb blast in fruit market in Petah Tikva suburb in Tel Aviv Wednesday. (AP wirephoto).

Carter calls for full Israeli-Arab relations

WASHINGTON, July 6 (R). — President Carter called today for full diplomatic relations and wide ranging trade and cultural exchanges between Israel and the Arabs as part of a Middle East settlement.

He outlined his views at a White House meeting with leaders of major Jewish organisations.

The president said there was a chance that a Middle East peace could be achieved "within the next number of months," but was no more definite than that about a possible timetable. He said the Arabs and Israel had to agree on the real nature of peace in the Middle East.

"This would involve a commitment to have full diplomatic relations, an exchange of ambassadors, open communication and travel across national borders, trade, commerce, tourism, cultural exchanges and free passage of transportation," he said.

Mr. Carter said this would be difficult for Arab leaders to accept, but added: "It is accurate to say that a year or two years ago, just to commit themselves to permanent peace and a recognition of Israel's right to exist, was a difficult thing for some of them."

On Mideast conflict

Waldheim: Unresolved problems should be clarified before going to Geneva

GENEVA, July 6 (R). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said today little time remained for reconvening Middle East peace talks this year, and many important unresolved problems had to be clarified before a date could be fixed.

He told reporters at a press lunch here that it would be very difficult to settle outstanding issues in time to resume the Geneva Middle East conference on Oct. 10 as set recently by new Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and endorsed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

But Dr. Waldheim added, "It is extremely important to recommence the negotiating process, because otherwise if nothing happens this year the situation in the Middle East will deteriorate in a dramatic fashion."

Problems still to be clarified, Dr. Waldheim said, included participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the Geneva talks, withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories, a homeland for the Palestinians, and safe and recognised frontiers for all countries in the region.

The Middle East peace conference has met only once, for two days in December 1973 following the Arab-Israeli war of October that year. It established the framework for subsequent troop withdrawal agreements between Egypt and Israel, and Syria and Israel, as well as for an Egyptian-Israeli interim peace agreement signed in September 1975.

Dr. Waldheim said no formal proposal existed to reconvene the talks in October, but only "a suggestion." A final decision on a date would depend on the outcome of bilateral and multilateral talks taking place in the near future, he said.

The secretary general said he would discuss the Middle East situation with Mr. Begin next July 22 when the Israeli prime minister visits the U.S. for talks with President Carter.

Dr. Waldheim said he got the latest Arab views in a one-hour talk with Egyptian President Sadat last week in Libreville, Gabon, during a summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Dr. Waldheim said: "It is extremely important to clarify the situation before going to Geneva... It would be premature and not wise to say already now that we are either optimistic or pessimistic."

"We have to wait and see how things develop further and then we can see whether there is a chance of achieving breakthrough in the negotiating process," Dr. Waldheim said.

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Bomb blast wounds 23 Israelis in fruit market near Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, July 6 (R). — A bomb exploded beneath a vegetable stall and wounded 23 people in a crowded market place on the outskirts of Tel Aviv today.

Security authorities said it was a "fairly large" bomb planted in a vegetable crate in a side street leading to the main Petah Tikva market, 8 kms. from central Tel Aviv. It was the biggest incident of its kind in this area since the start of the year.

Five of the victims were badly hurt, a hospital spokesman said. One man had his leg blown off and a pregnant woman was hit in the abdomen by flying debris.

Security authorities had been on the watch for violence. Security sources said some sort of violent demonstration had been expected to mark the opening of the trial of two young West Germans and three Arab guerrillas accused of trying to attack an Israeli airliner in Kenya.

There was no definite indication, however, that the trial and the bomb were linked.

Petah Tikva is in an area close to the pre-1967 boundary between Israel and Jordan. Arabs from Israeli-controlled areas customarily throng into Petah Tikva market to sell produce.

Security forces rounded up dozens of Arabs. A police spokesman said some were held to protect them from angry Israeli stallholders.

The senior police commander for the area, Mr. Arie Iv-tsan, told newsmen he expected that suspects would be caught before long.

Stalls were splintered and bloodspattered piles of fruit littered the market. Motorists stopped to pick up wounded before ambulances arrived.

Police said the explosives were packed inside a metal pipe attached to a timing device.

The trial which could have provided the motive for the attack was being held in secret at an undisclosed location.

The defendants were arrested in Kenya after an abortive attempt to blast an Israeli airliner with rocket fire at the start of 1976.

Just how the defendants were subsequently transferred to Israel has never been officially disclosed.

PLO CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY

In Beirut, the Palestine news agency Wafa said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation has claimed responsibility for a bomb which wounded 23 people on the outskirts of Tel Aviv today. It said Israeli authorities have arrested many Palestinians following the blast.

Wafa said that "acting on orders for the general command of the Palestine revolution, a special group of fighters operating inside occupied Palestine planted explosive charges in a shop situated in the central market of Petah Tikva, a suburb of Tel Aviv."

The PLO, the umbrella movement grouping most organisations including the DFLP, usually issues statements on commando operations on behalf of all members without identifying those responsible.

The statement, issued by the DFLP's "Interior Forces Command", was accompanied by a photostat copy of a drawing showing the location of the vegetable market where the blast reportedly took place.

"This heroic operation carried out by our comrades in spite of all security measures imposed by the enemy, is in retaliation against the Begin government's plans to establish settlements (in occupied Arab territories) and its policy of repression," the statement said.

The statement warned the Israeli authorities of "inflicting any harm" on Arabs detained after the operation and pledged to "continue and step up armed action and retaliation against the enemy's settlement plans and repressive measures."

"The bomb exploded at 10.30 this morning, causing 23 casualties, seven of whom were badly wounded."

The agency said that 65 people had been arrested following the blast, and Palestinians were still being rounded up by the time the Wafa report was issued in the afternoon.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), in a separate statement identified the guerrillas allegedly responsible for the explosion as belonging to "our armed groups operating in occupied territory."

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TWO BOMBS ROCK CAIRO SUBURBS

CAIRO, July 6 (R). — A bundle of dynamite sticks blasted an open air cinema in the Cairo suburb of Agouza, injuring nine spectators, Middle East News Agency reported tonight.

A similar device blew up inside the Institute of Oriental Music in the fashionable Zamalek district, but there were no casualties, police sources said.

It was not immediately known if the blasts were connected with the Muslim extremist organisation that kidnapped former Egyptian minister Dr. Mohammed Hussein Zahabi, whose mutilated body was discovered today.



FOUND DEAD -- Egyptian plainclothes policeman carry body of former Egyptian Minister of Religious Affairs, Dr. Mohammed Hussein Zahabi, into an ambulance car Wednesday after he was found murdered in a rented flat in Giza suburb in Cairo. (AP wirephoto).

Cairo police arrest hostage killer

CAIRO, July 6 (R). — Police today found the body of former Egyptian cabinet minister kidnapped by Moslem extremists and said they also captured his killer.

The battered corpse of Dr. Mohammed Hussein Zahabi, 67, was discovered in a house in the Cairo suburb of Giza. Police said he had been blindfolded and shot through the left eye, probably within 24 hours of being dragged at gunpoint from his home in the capital.

Stab wounds on the body indicated Dr. Zahabi was tortured before he was killed by his abductors, members of the fanatical Al Takfir wal Hijra -- society for repentance and flight from sin.

The sect had demanded the release of 60 of its jailed adherents and payment of 200,000 Egyptian pounds (same sterling) in return for Dr. Zahabi's life.

The Interior Ministry said Dr. Zahabi, who was Minister for Religious Endowments until last year, would receive a state funeral attended by Premier Mamedouh Salem tomorrow.

Dr. Zahabi was the first political kidnapping victim in modern Egyptian history and was chosen because of his press attacks on the ultra-conservative sect, according to its spokesmen.

One of his two sons told reporters: "Our father died a martyr." State Security Chief Prosecutor Dr. Adil Hussein described the killing as barbaric.

Police said the alleged killer had confessed and was among the other suspects of the sect who had been arrested. They were taken to the Ka'i (castle) prison in old Cairo. The body was found after

police early today arrested three student members of the sect, one of whom tried to swallow instructions that the remains were to be dumped in the river Nile.

Police said the students disclosed the address where Dr. Zahabi was killed.

Also arrested in a nearby villa were two men armed with submachine guns. They had bottles of ether which they planned to pour over the decaying body, police said.

Police, misled by the scarf used to blind fold the former minister, said at first that he had been strangled. But an examination of the body showed he had been shot in the head.

Four leaders of the sect were arrested yesterday and the driver of a car in the kidnapping was also seized but police have not yet disclosed the total number in custody.

The kidnappers first gave

authorities a deadline of noon on Monday to meet their demands but later extended it.

An anonymous telephone caller told foreign news agencies the same day that Dr. Zahabi had been killed and that the body could be found in the suburb of Zeitoun.

But police found only a boby-trapped building and an apartment stocked with explosives and plans to sabotage the Cairo newspapers Al Gomhuria and Al Akhbar.

The Moslem Society was founded in Upper Egypt in 1966 and has bombarded President Anwar Sadat with appeals to restore "Islamic purity" in Egypt.

It considers the country heretical, partly because it allows women to work and mix freely with men.

The sect, led by agricultural engineer Mustapha Shukri, is banned and its members subject to arrest.

Zia-Ul-Haque suspends Pakistani constitution

ISLAMABAD, July 6 (R). — Pakistan today settled down under its new military ruler, without any outward show of excitement over the ousting of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

In his first order as administrator of the martial law imposed after yesterday's bloodless coup, army strongman Gen. Zia-Ul-Haque suspended the constitution but pledged to follow its provisions as closely as possible.

Gen. Zia, 52, has promised to hold general elections in October and in the meantime the national and provincial assemblies have been dissolved.

Today troops maintained their guard over public buildings, but the country was reported calm after the takeover, which followed four months of political strife in which at least 350 people were killed.

In the politically volatile city of Lahore, capital of Punjab province, a magistrate banned political demonstrations and the display of party flags.

Jubilant supporters of the opposition National Alliance (PNA), who had clashed frequently with those of Mr. Bhutto's People's Party, welcomed the premier's downfall yesterday by hoisting flags in Lahore.

Talks between the premier

and the PNA, aimed at ending the protracted political crisis, had reached stalemate but were to have resumed yesterday.

Violence erupted after the March 7 elections, which the Bhutto party won but which the PNA claimed were rigged. The opposition demanded fresh elections.

The newspaper Nawa-i-Waqt reported today that several leaders of the nine-party PNA were still free. Gen. Zia said last night that senior leaders of the alliance were taken into protective custody at the same time as Mr. Bhutto.

Nawa-i-Waqt said the opposition leaders still free included chief minister Tufail Muhammad, head of the rightwing religious Jamiat Ulema Islam Party, and Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, former president of the Pakistan-controlled region of Kashmir.

The newspaper Jang, commenting on the army takeover, said it was the only alternative after Mr. Bhutto had prolonged negotiations with the opposition and created doubt over his sincerity on the issue of holding new elections.

Jang said that although martial law was not something to be welcomed, the army's justification carried weight and its analysis of the situation made its action inevitable.

Sen. Dole: No crisis between U.S., Israel

TEL AVIV, July 6 (R). — U.S. Senator Robert Dole said today there was no crisis in the relations between the U.S. and Israel, though there were differences of opinion between the two countries.

Senator Dole arrived here early today for talks with Prime Minister Menachem Begin and other Israeli leaders.

He told journalists at Ben Gurion airport: "One can speak of a certain uncomfortable feeling, some tension. But such tension or even disagreement must not be construed as

a crisis in the relations between the U.S. and Israel."

He said that there is no erosion in America's Middle East policy as far as Israel was concerned.

"If there has been any erosion, I have not been able to detect it," he said.

During his four days here the former Republican vice presidential candidate will also be received by President Ephraim Katzir, and hold talks with Defence Minister Ezer Weizmann and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

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INTER-CONTINENTAL

Talks resume on Swiss industrial investment

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan and Switzerland resumed their economic talks at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce Wednesday morning.

Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddine Dajani briefed the Swiss delegation on investment opportunities, incentives and exemptions provided by the government to attract foreign investment and the policy of free movement of foreign capital and company profits in and out of the country.

Dr. Dajani also welcomed any contacts the members of the delegation might have with Jordanian businessmen and industrialists aimed at setting up joint Swiss-Jordanian industrial projects.

He also briefed the delegation on bilateral economic agreements between Jordan and other Arab countries and Jordan's role in the Arab Common Market.

The Swiss delegation, led by its ambassador here, M. Gustave Dubois, promised to convey its impressions of Jordan's economy and investment opportunities to Swiss businessmen and banks as a first step towards direct contact between businessmen in the two countries.

The Swiss delegation expressed special interest in providing aid for telecommunications and vocational training projects, as well as for hospitals and tourist parks.

The Jordanian team, led by Dr. Dajani, included the Director of Industry at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Tawfiq Batarseh; its Director of Economic Cooperation, Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf; and the Director of Electricity and Energy, Mr. Faraj Hashimi.



Swiss-Jordanian talks: The aim is aid.

U.K. ambassador visits site of potash project

AMMAN (JNA). — The British Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. John Moberly, paid a visit to the site of the potash project on the southeastern shores of the Dead Sea Wednesday.

He was briefed on progress on the \$10 million first stage of the project to build an experimental one-kilometre dike. A number of British firms have prepared studies for the project and worked out specifications for the construction of many of its plants.

The plant will start producing one million tons of refined potash per annum in 1981.

CABINET ORDERS BAN ON SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

AMMAN (JNA). — A cabinet meeting chaired by acting Prime Minister Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday approved recommendations to combat chest diseases.

They call for a ban on smoking in public places and order local tobacco companies to write on cigarette packets: "Smoking is Harmful to the Health. We advise you to abstain from smoking."

The decisions will ban the import of all cigarettes, which do not carry such a health warning.

The sale of cigarette-shaped chocolates is also forbidden.

التخرج طلبه المعاهد



His Highness Prince Hassan delivers a speech at Al Hussein Youth City Wednesday before he graduated students from the country's teacher training institutes. (JNA photo).

Prince Hassan attends graduation ceremony

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy presided over a ceremony for the 2,913 graduates of state and private teachers training institutes at Al Hussein Youth City Wednesday.

In a speech, Prince Hassan said he would like, in particular, to congratulate the graduates "in this historic year, which caps our long experiment to achieve a high standard in Jordanian educational institutions."

"Jordan's experiment depends on the development of its human resources, which are our first and final asset for facing up to challenges with awareness and reasonableness," Prince Hassan added.

Earlier, acting Prime Minister and Minister of Education Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali spoke on the new educational methods his ministry is introducing, such as the development of vocational education.

Kuwaitis start studies here

AMMAN (R). — A total of 390 male and female students from the University of Kuwait are now taking summer courses in all faculties of the University of Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency quoted university sources as saying that the participation of Kuwaiti students comes within the framework of cultural cooperation and coordination between the university here and the University of Kuwait.

The university provides accommodation to about 200 students on its campus, the sources added.

Summer courses started last Saturday.



Her Highness Princess Basma attends the opening ceremony Wednesday of a children's home set up by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Latin Bishop, Monsignor Netemh Saman, praised the role of Princess Basma in the field of child-care in Jordan.

Afterwards, Princess Basma unveiled the foundation stone for a new section, which will ensure a home for 50 children once completed.

LEBANESE ARMY CHIEF RETURNS TO BEIRUT

BEIRUT, July 6 (Agencies). — Lebanese Army Commander Brig. Victor Khouri returned here today after a five-day visit to Jordan.

During his stay, he met with His Majesty King Hussein and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Zeid Ibn Shaker. He also had talks with senior officials on bilateral relations and inspected a number of military installations.

Official sources said Brig. Khouri's talks were successful and held in a fraternal atmosphere.

Awqaf minister leaves for meet in Canada

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif left for Canada Wednesday to take in the General Conference of Islamic Organisations and Associations, which opens in Toronto July 14.

He said before his departure that the conference will focus on the city of Jerusalem, the Islamic holy places in the occupied Arab territories ways of spreading Islam in the Americas and the strengthening of relations among Moslem organisations throughout the world.

After the Toronto conference, Mr. Al Sharif will visit the United States and give lectures on the situation in the holy city during Jerusalem Day celebrations to be held in New York.

Abu Odeh opens Third World media parley

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh has emphasised that coordination in the information field among non-aligned countries can take place through the strengthening of their cultural, social and political ties, as well as achieving a balanced, reasonable flow of information between non-aligned and industrialised states.

Mr. Abu Odeh was speaking at the opening session of the preparatory committee for the non-aligned media conference here Wednesday morning.

"It is an established fact, which our peoples still sense and suffer, that unjust discrimination exists in one vital sphere of the life of modern man, namely the field of information," Mr. Abu Odeh stated.

"We believe that active, clear-cut coordination among broadcasting bodies of the non-aligned countries will give the world an opportunity to get to know the positive aspects in the lives of the peoples of these countries, their achievements and activities and their honest struggle and constant attempts to achieve development and prosperity for their peoples and the peoples of the world," the minister said.

Mr. Abu Odeh said that Jordan is optimistic about the results of the preparatory committee meeting in Amman and the success of the non-aligned news media conference to be held in the Yugoslav city of Sarajevo in November.

He said the success of the Sarajevo meeting depends to a large extent on the efforts "you now make to prepare the way for that conference."

The head of Yugoslav Television and Radio, Mr. Ismail Bajra stressed the importance of the meeting, which will prepare an agenda for the Sarajevo conference.

Sarajevo Agenda Discussed

After the opening ceremony, the preparatory committee, consisting of 3 countries, went into session. It reviewed the Sarajevo agenda and decided to ask non-aligned countries to provide data on their respective information media bodies in order to make the necessary arrangements for the conference. The preparatory committee re-

scheduled its meetings at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Wednesday afternoon.

A number of delegation heads proposed that the agenda include three papers on the historical and political roots of the idea of information cooperation among non-aligned countries and the basis and procedures for the exchange of news, programmes and expertise among non-aligned broadcasting organisations.

Jordan's representative to the meeting stressed that information cooperation among non-aligned countries should be organised through the establishment of a non-aligned news agency and the exchange of programmes and technical experts among non-aligned member bodies.



Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh presides over a meeting Wednesday to prepare the agenda for the Third World news media conference in Sarajevo in November. (JNA photo).

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Ghaleb Barakat Wednesday met with the French ambassador in Amman to discuss cooperation in the tourist field.

* STOCKHOLM. — Ibrahim Izzeddine Wednesday presented his credentials to King Carl Gustav as Jordan's ambassador to Sweden.

* AMMAN. — The Director of the Telecommunications Corporation, Mr. Mohammad Shahed Ismail, leaves for Cairo Thursday at the head of a technical delegation representing Jordan at Saturday's meeting of the Board of Administration of the Arab Space Communications Institute. The meeting will discuss the Arab satellite project.

* AMMAN. — A senior United Nations expert on statistical research, Mr. Salem Khamis, arrived here Wednesday for talks with officials of the Department of Statistics on the possibility of Arab students and statistical personnel studying at the Jordanian Statistical Training Centre.

* AMMAN. — Amman municipality is working on a plan to set up a zoo in the Ain Ghazal/AI Mahatta area. Municipal sources said the assistant director of Britain's Bristol Zoo is supervising its construction.

* AMMAN. — Sheikh Mohammad Mahmoud Al Sawwaf, adviser at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, left here Wednesday after a ten-day visit. He gave a series of religious lectures in a number of Jordanian towns.

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European central banks intervene to steady dollar

PARIS, July 6 (AFP). — European central banks stepped into the markets yesterday to steady the U.S. dollar as it slid back to a nearly four-year low against the Japanese yen.

Dealers in Frankfurt and Paris said the West German and French Central Banks brought \$10 and \$100 million respectively to prevent the U.S. currency sinking too low against the German mark and the French franc.

The Swiss National Bank also intervened.

Indications were that European monetary authorities had decided to react in order not to endanger European exports, although a weaker dollar means a lower bill for dollar-priced crude oil.

However, experts said the slowing down of the dollar's slide against some European currencies might not reflect any real change of trend.

They said the Bank of Japan, which set off the current bout of monetary uncertainty by withdrawing support for the dollar last week, was likely to pursue its present policy.

According to these experts, the Japanese central bank might even decide to "revalue" the yen within the next several weeks by setting a new target rate at which it would resume intervention when the relationship between the two currencies is considered as more realistic.

Paris dealers said this might lead to a revamping of the present pattern of exchange rates.

Observers noted that a statement issued at the end of the annual ministerial meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said countries with a strong currency and a payments surplus agreed to accept

EEC considers renewal of Multifibre Arrangement

GENEVA, July 6 (AFP). — The European Economic Community's partners were last night considering conditions laid down earlier in the day by the EEC for renewing the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA).

The common market countries said, at talks which opened here yesterday under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), that they agreed to extend the arrangement for five years, provided that there was agreement on the conditions for implementing it.

The crux of the matter was whether the arrangement made in 1972 and due to expire at the end of this year should be simply extended as it stood, or whether it should be renegotiated.

The EEC — the developing countries' largest market — considered that the way the MFA was carried out led to the closure of 3,500 textile mills and the loss of 500,000 jobs. It affirmed that, if the MFA went on in this way, another 1,600, Europeans would be out of work by 1982.

So the Common Market urged that, in the case of products with a very high "penetration" rate (such as shirts), the increase in European imports should be brought into line with the rise in consumption — which is almost nil.

Regarding other articles, the EEC would agree to increase ranging from 1 to 6 per cent.

As the EEC sees the problem, "these stabilisation measures are an absolute precondition for the community to continue to take part in an international arrangement."

New York City gets U.S. Treasury loan

WASHINGTON, July 6 (R). — Financially troubled New York City obtained a \$300 million loan from the U.S. Treasury yesterday.

The loan came at the start of the final year in a three-year financial aid programme designed to help New York rid

itself of long-standing debts and cease to rely on federal assistance.

The city has asked for a further \$450 million loan this month and is expected to need \$2.1 billion for the whole year, all which must be repaid at the end of 12 months.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* NEW YORK, July 6 (AFP). — A new market, the Commodities Exchange Centre Incorporated (CEC), opened here today. It groups the Commodity Exchange Inc., the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange, the New York Cotton Exchange and the New York Mercantile Exchange at the World Trade Centre. Jacob Stern, the manager, said that the new market would use the most advanced techniques in the world. Deals will concern copper, gold, silver, cotton, sugar, coffee, petroleum products and foreign currencies. The new installations cost \$10,000,000 and provide jobs for 1,300 workers.

* LONDON, July 6 (R). — Experts from 36 developing countries met in London next week to discuss rural development in the Third World, the British Ministry of Overseas Development announced today. The six-day conference, opening on July 10, is an annual event arranged by the ministry as part of its overseas aid programme. This year's meeting will study the relevance of the ministry's research effort in the renewable natural resources field to the problems of rural development in the Third World, a spokesman said.

* LONDON, July 6 (AFP). — Lloyds Bank today announced the opening of a branch in Manila. Lloyds is one of the first institutions to start business under the new Philippine regulations regarding foreign banks. Up to now, it had only a representative office, opened in 1975.

Carter plans to ask for power to ration petrol

WASHINGTON, July 6 (AFP). — President Jimmy Carter plans to ask Congress for authority to order gasoline (petrol) rationing in case of need, a source close to the Carter administration said yesterday.

Present law restricts presidential powers in this field. Mr. Carter wants Congress to end the restrictions so that he could impose rationing immediately in the event of an emergency such as war in the Middle East or imposition of another oil embargo, the source said.

Mr. Carter discussed the matter yesterday with his special adviser for energy affairs, James Schlesinger, it was learned.

Trans-Alaskan pipeline crack halts oil flow

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, July 6 (R). — Flow of oil along the 800-mile (1,280 km.) Trans-Alaska pipeline has been stopped 17 days after it began, while workers repair a damaged section, officials said today.

Teams of oilmen have been walking alongside the \$9.3 billion pipeline from the 250,000 square mile (400,000 square km.) Prudhoe Bay Field, on Alaska's frozen North Slope, to the southern Port of Valdez, on Prince William Sound, to detect any pipeline faults.

Workers have dug beneath 20 feet (6 metres) of gravel to discover a cracked joint in the 48-inch (120 cm.) thick pipe about halfway between Prudhoe Bay and Valdez.

The pipeline was shut down yesterday as soon as nitrogen gas, which precedes the first flow of oil down the pipe to purge it of air, was discovered to be leaking.

Officials said a delay of 48 hours while the cracked section of pipe is replaced and tested would not seriously hurt the 30 to 45-day schedule for the oil to reach Valdez.

Only yesterday the Alyeska Company, which built and operates the line, held a beer party at Fairbanks to celebrate the oil at the halfway mark.

PLO membership in ECWA recommended ECOSOC meeting begins

By Peter Hulm

GENEVA, July 6 (R). — A 54-nation conference opens here today to discuss world economic problems with the Middle East and Rhodesia likely to become prominent issues.

One of the topics facing a month-long session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is a recommendation that the Palestine Liberation Organisation be allowed to join ECOSOC's subsidiary, the Economic Commission for Western Asia, as a full member.

The council would have to amend the 12-nation commission's terms of references to accept the PLO, because these restrict membership to U.N. states.

The council will also consider a report by a U.N. mission to Mozambique which says that \$102 million worth of aid granted the country since it applied mandatory U.N. sanctions against Rhodesia last year fell "far short" of Mozambique's needs.

The council will also discuss aid for Zambia, Botswana and Lesotho recommended as a result of the conflict over Rhodesia.

The council opens with an address by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

A regular economic survey presented to ECOSOC said the major industrial countries were likely to have a lower growth rate this year than last. Regional studies indicated that Western Europe's recovery

from recession lost its momentum in the second half of 1976 and there was little sign of a sustained upswing in the immediate future.

Most countries in Latin America showed a pronounced recovery in economic growth, because imports rose only two per cent in value while exports were worth 14 per cent more last year.

Countries in Asia and the Pacific showed clear signs of

recovery from world-wide recession. But African states would have to adopt sound monetary and development policies and increase regional cooperation as well as obtain more international aid.

The report said the rate of economic expansion in Eastern Europe including the Soviet Union fell to six per cent last year from about 11 per cent in 1974 and nine per cent in 1975.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London Foreign Exchange Market today. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	=	1.7207 / 09	U.S. dollars
One dollar	=	2.3150 / 60	West German marks
	=	2.4630 / 45	Dutch guilders
	=	2.4330 / 40	Swiss francs
	=	35.93 / 95	Belgian francs
	=	4.5780 / 70	French francs
	=	883.75 / 85	Italian lire
	=	265.30 / 40	Japanese yen
	=	4.3932 / 42	Swedish crowns
	=	5.2890 / 2900	Norwegian crowns
	=	6.0100 / 15	Danish crowns

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices declined broadly Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange, where the industrial average lost nearly six points in moderate trading.

Investors were worried about recent declines in the price of many commodities, as well as Agriculture Department figures on farm prices.

Declines outnumbered advances at the close by a wide 833 to 574 margin.

Most groups of shares ended the day on a lower note. Oil shares were off: Occidental Petroleum lost 1.5 at 27.5. Auto shares also declined: General Motors lost 1.5 at 68-1/8, Ford was off 1 1/4 at 45 3/4.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 907.90, a loss of 5.69 points: Transp at 237.19, a loss of 0.83; utilities at 115.48, a gain of 0.19. 21,230,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,410,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed mostly lower Wednesday, despite a mild, mid-session rally.

Sentiment was hit by continuing fears over the government's pay policy after news that the miners rejected a productivity plan yesterday and transport workers today voted against continuing pay restraint at their union conference, dealers said.

Government stocks were also affected by indications of a rise in U.K. money supply and closed up to 5/8 point down among high coupon longs while shorts lost 1/8 to 1/4. Leading industrials were mostly two or three pence lower in quiet trading and at 15:00 the F.T. index was down 3.6 at 447.4.

Oils and banks followed the easier trend and mining shares also fell prompted by the decline in the gold bullion price. Australians and Canadians declined where changed.

Lucas led leading equities lower with a 6p fall and Unilever lost 4p while rises of up to 3p were reported in ICI, Marks, Fisons, Glaxo, Beecham and GEC. EMI recovered an earlier 2p fall while Hawker continued to see demand and closed around 6p higher.

Sainsbury was unchanged at a penny easier after the annual meeting and Chairman's statement, dealers said.

Price of gold closed in London Wednesday at \$140.55/oz.

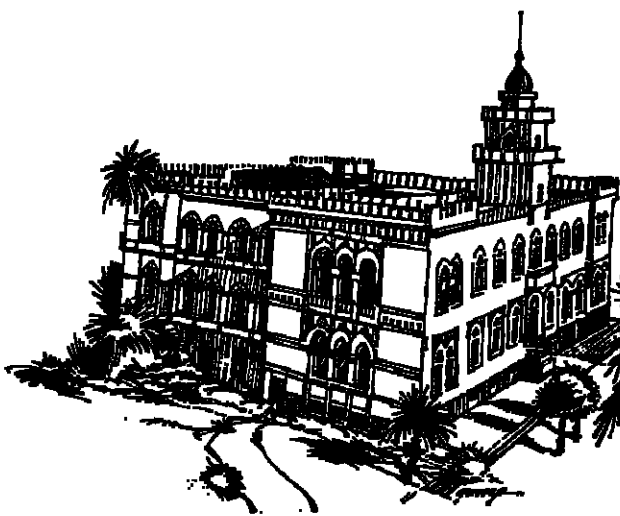
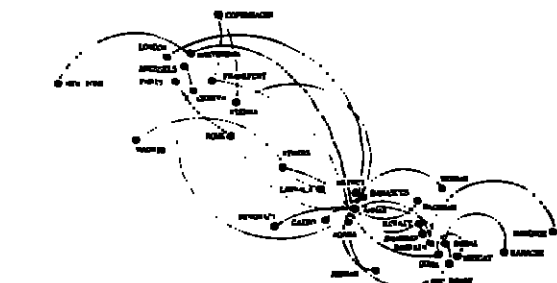
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Alia The Royal Jordanian Airline, adds Benghazi to its international network

Our fleet of modern Boeing jets will take you directly to Benghazi twice a week every Saturday and Wednesday

Our new services will link you with North Africa and the world



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Our reliable drivers will take you twice a week to Petra in luxurious air-conditioned pullman coaches.

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Departure at 7.30 a.m. from the company offices opposite the entrance to the Army Headquarters.

Return from Petra at 3.30 p.m.

Cost per person: JD 3.

DUE TO ITS RETURN TO BEIRUT

The United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) wants to sell the following telephone equipment and apparatus (all exempt from customs duties):

- Safnat telephone and intercoms
- 12 Safnat telephone and intercoms 2/6
- 12 feeder 650/02.
- National Brand button telephone
- 1 VB-375 D main unit
- 1 VB-359 D bell box
- 3 VB-3652 D extension unit
- 30 VB-371 DY button telephone w/cable
- 30 VB-377 P connector w/plug
- 30 VB-377 PJ connector w/plug and jack
- 30 VB-3021 A confidential talk unit.

Anyone interested should contact Mr. Issa Tubbeh, tel. 63163 or 61415.

All offers before July 10, 1977. Office located near the Ministry of Health.

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The Terra Sancta Alumni Club has the honour to offer to the Jordanian public on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's silver jubilee

THE INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT
CARNAVAL A RIO
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BRAZIL TROPICAL



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TICKETS: First Class JD 4;

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- A ground floor apartment consisting of two bedrooms, living room, hall and dining room. With accessories and central heating.

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I THINK SOMEBODY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN...

A cartoon by Schulz. A character is looking at a golf bag on a golf course. The character is saying, "I THINK SOMEBODY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN..." The golf bag is on a golf course, and there are golf clubs visible. The character is looking at the golf bag with a concerned expression. The signature "SCHULZ" is at the bottom right.

THERE'LL BE A LITTLE WAIT FOR THE ROAST DUCK, SIR!

AL SMITH

1077 The Professor
and I

He who loves gold will not be satisfied with gold.

AMMAN AIRPORT[illegible]

defense is helpless. If a fourth round of hearts is played, you ruff and draw three rounds of trumps. Now cash the king of clubs, and when both defenders follow, you are home. The ace of

(Answers tomorrow)
SKUNK CANKER UNCOIL
a foot—"SOCK"

4. Pedestal part

DOWN 5. Orange drink
6. Presidential

[illegible]

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.

France, North Yemen conclude \$200 m. deal

PARIS, July 6 (R). — France and the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) today signed agreements for economic and technological cooperation totalling about one billion francs (\$200 million) over the next five years.

These include a 300 million franc (\$60 million) telecommunications system, harbour and airport installations, road transport, oil exploration and mining research, and the development of the tourist industry, French and Yemeni officials said.

The agreements followed talks here between President Ibrahim Ali Hamdi of the Yemen Arab Republic and French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing on the situation in the Red Sea and the Middle East, as well as economic, political and military cooperation between the two countries.

"I am fully satisfied with my visit to France," the Yemeni president told a press conference at the end of a three-day state visit.

President Hamdi, who is co-

mmander-in-chief of the North Yemeni armed forces, said his talks with M. Giscard d'Estaing have shown that France and the Yemen Arab Republic share the same view on world problems, and the need to strengthen Franco-Arab relations to maintain peace and security in the Red Sea area.

"We are striving to keep the Red Sea as a lake of peace for the benefit of all bordering countries," he said.

The Yemeni leader said his government had taken the lead in calling for a summit meeting of the 21 Arab League member states to discuss the situation in the Red Sea and the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

He praised M. Giscard d'Estaing for his efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, including his stand for a Palestinian homeland.

As part of the overall security of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, Yemen favoured the co-

ntinued presence of French military forces in newly independent Djibouti, he said.

President Hamdi side-stepped the question of a possible reunification of North and South Yemen -- the Yemen Arab Republic (SANAA) and the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen (Aden).

"I believe the situation in our area is satisfactory and cooperation with our brethren in South Yemen is good," he said.

Saudi Arabia, the prime mover behind North Yemen's economic and military development, is opposed to unification of the two Yemens, which would uncover its underbelly, officials said.

President Hamdi, who led a bloodless coup d'état in the Red Sea state in June 1974, yesterday saw a demonstration of France's latest Mirage jets at Villacoublay, near Paris.

President Hamdi watched light AMX-10 and medium AMX-30 tanks and other armoured vehicles in manoeuvres at nearby Satory camp.

Saudi Arabia is paying for the military development of North Yemen's land, sea and air forces, which are already equipped with American and French arms.

"I did not come to France to negotiate new arms purchases, but I can tell you that military co-operation between our two countries was started a long time ago," President Hamdi told reporters.

France hopes to clinch a contract for the construction of a naval base near the Yemeni port of Mokha, which it built 100 years ago.

The Yemeni leader, who attended a dinner banquet at the Elysee presidential Palace on Monday evening, leaves Paris tomorrow for home.

OAU summit salvages semblance of unity, but continent remains divided

LIBREVILLE, Gabon, July 6 (R). — The 14th annual summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which host President Omar Bongo of Gabon said was designed to "salvage" unity, managed to preserve a semblance of that goal -- but without healing the deep rifts which divide the continent.

This was the consensus among observers who witnessed the four-day meeting which ended here last night.

It was a summit at which "moderate" states went on what one of the delegates from a "progressive" nation described as an offensive, pushing through a resolution on non-interference in the internal affairs of members that could be interpreted as reflecting their concern about Soviet influence in the continent.

But the African leaders also decided, somewhat unexpectedly, to come out strongly in favour of a group spearheading the armed struggle in Rhodesia, which appeared to be a "progressive" victory.

After repeatedly decrying the lack of unity among nationalist movements in the parts of Africa not yet encompassed by the OAU, delegates accepted a Zambian resolution backing the Patriotic Front in Rhodesia, a loose alliance of the two main guerrilla groups.

The summit stressed that it was essential to have only one liberation army fighting white minority rule. OAU spokesman Peter Onu added that the question of choosing a leader for Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) would be decided after the armed struggle was successful.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, lea-

der of the main nationalist group rivaling the Patriotic Front made no public statement after the decision, although acquaintances said he was "stunned" by it. However, he had resolved to fight on regardless, they said.

A smaller group led by the Rev. Ndabeningi Sithole decided the decision, arguing that it "now makes it impossible for Zimbabwe to unite."

One of two leaders of the Patriotic Front, Mr. Robert Mugabe, said after the decision that it was "recognition of the priorities we have set ourselves... first we fight and then secondly, we go to elections."

The other leader, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, said the front had been entrusted with a heavy responsibility -- "it is not a question of victors and vanquished."

President Bongo, current chairman of the OAU who made the theme of the summit the need to "wash our dirty linen," said the appeal for unity among the nationalist movements could also be applied to African leaders themselves.

The summit and the council of ministers which preceded it saw several examples of the conflict between individual states, in addition to an ideological split between "moderates" and "progressives".

Benin stayed away altogether because of a dispute with host state Gabon over a mercenary raid on Cotonou, its economic capital, last January.

But Morocco, the other absentee on the opening day of the council meeting, returned

to the fold to take a leading role in presenting the "moderate" case.

Delegates managed to steer round a clash over the Western Sahara, where Morocco in partnership with Mauritania as heirs to the former Spanish colony are challenged by Algeria, a leading light of the "progressive" group and backer of the Polisario guerrillas.

However, there was a sharp exchange over Libya and Chad over a strip of Saharan desert on their borders. And perhaps the most bitter wrangle was between Ethiopia and Somalia over another piece of arid land in the Horn of Africa.

The OAU has had a committee looking into that dispute for some years now, but it decided to establish two more on the Libya-Chad issue and on Ethiopian accusations against another neighbour, Sudan, for its alleged support of anti-government movements.

OAU Secretary General William Etaki Mbomou accepted last night that the summit, now attended by 49 member nations, was not the ideal forum for settling disputes, and pointed to a Nigerian resolution accepted by the heads of state on the establishment of a 10 country committee to mediate on conflicts.

The Western Sahara question, perhaps the most delicate facing the continent, is to be tackled by a special summit in Lusaka in October.

If the latest OAU meeting actually settled nothing, it did attract the unusually high number of 23 heads of state. Most of them were from the "moderate" group, but observers questioned whether the resolutions would have been significantly different if the "progressives" had been here in force.

After one year's detention Tel Aviv puts W. Germans, Arabs on trial for guerrilla act in Kenya

TEL AVIV, July 6 (R). — Two West Germans and three Arabs went on trial today accused of attempting to shoot down an Israeli airliner with a rocket at Nairobi last year, the Israeli officials refused to divulge information about the secret trial, but a West German spokesman said here that it opened today and an embassy observer was attending.

West Germany complained last March that it had not been told for more than a year of the arrest of Brigitte Schultz, 23, and Thomas Reuter, 24.

At the same time a Bonn Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed press reports that they had been held in connection with an attempt to shoot down an El Al Boeing 707 with a Strella rocket as the plane was landing at Nairobi in January, 1976.

Press reports published outside Israel said the five accused had been arrested by a special anti-terror unit of the Kenyan police.

Their release was also reported to be one of the demands of the guerrilla band which hijacked an Air France plane to Entebbe a year ago. The hijack ended when Israeli com-

mandos launched an airborne raid to free the hostages.

An Israeli military spokesman refused to give any details of the trial, which is being held at a secret location.

But an earlier official announcement said they face charges of attempting to attack an El Al airliner at a foreign airport and of membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) guerrilla group.

The trial had been due to open on June 10 but the hearing was postponed at the last moment when the chief of staff, Gen. Moshe Chel, disqualified two Israeli attorneys, who have for years defended Arab guerrillas in military courts, from representing the West Germans. Legal sources said he considered them a security risk.

The two accused refused the Israeli lawyers they were offered and asked to be represented by West German counsel. This involved legal and financial difficulties and the trial was postponed.

But Reuter is now understood to be defended by a Tel Aviv lawyer. The defence attorney for Frankfurt is not yet known.

Ian Smith prepared to cooperate with Sithole

SALISBURY, July 6 (R). — Prime Minister Ian Smith indicated today he was prepared to allow black nationalist leader the Rev. Ndabeningi Sithole back into Rhodesia and said it was in his favour that he had publicly condemned the rival Patriotic Front.

"I like to hear that kind of talking because today, as far as Rhodesia is concerned I believe the Patriotic Front is public enemy number one," Mr. Smith told a press conference.

He said his government was constantly working on alternative settlement proposals and if the current Anglo-American initiative failed there were plans for an entirely new Rhodesian attempt to solve the country's constitutional problems.

Mr. Smith said he had recently been told both by Rhodesian blacks and by people from other African and European countries that Mr. Sithole had a change of heart and should be allowed to enter Rhodesia and work for a peaceful solution. Mr. Sithole, former leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), was released from detention in Rhodesia in 1975 and now lives in Tanzania.

Clearly I think in our present circumstances it would be completely irresponsible of government or of anybody to completely disregard any possibility of contributing towards a cessation or a lessening of terrorism and bringing about a peaceful settlement to our country," Mr. Smith added.

Mr. Smith said he was not

prepared to transfer power in Rhodesia to the Patriotic Front alliance of Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe, who lead the nationalist guerrilla armies based on Rhodesia's borders with Zambia and Mozambique.

"As far as we are concerned the Patriotic Front are the main enemies, they are the ones that are supporting terrorism," Mr. Smith said. "One of the things in favour of Mr. Sithole is today he is publicly condemning the Patriotic Front and also publicly condemning the front-line presidents because of their association with the Patriotic Front."

The prime minister said he would be prepared to meet the representatives of the British and American governments, Mr. John Graham and Mr. Steven Low, when they arrived to pursue their settlement initiative in Salisbury later this week. "It depends on whether they make a request to see me," he said. Discussing the possibility of a Commonwealth peace-keeping force being sent to Rhodesia during the period of transition to majority rule, Mr. Smith said: "If there is a constructive suggestion by members of the free world to make a contribution it would be ridiculous to turn it down."

"But it depends on what type of contribution they want to make. Any peace-keeping force that would push our own security forces into the background or would not come under the control of the existing command structure would be out of question."

Trial opens in California

"Trash bag murderers" set possible record in U.S. homosexual killings

RIVERSIDE, California, July 6 (R). — Two homosexuals linked by police with a wave of grisly sex killings in California wore bullet-proof vests when they appeared in court on murder charges here yesterday.

Police clamped tight security around the tiny courthouse as crowds jostled for a view of the two men suspected of "trash bag murders" in the state over the past seven years.

The two -- Patrick Kearney, 37, and 34-year-old David Hill -- have been linked with 28 possible homosexual killings in California since giving themselves up last week, police said.

If the police theory about them is proved right, they could be accused of the biggest mass murder in U.S. history.

Today the short, bespectacled

Kearney, who works for an aircraft corporation, and the unemployed Hill were charged with the murders of two unidentified victims. Municipal judge Philip La Rocca set July 15 for a preliminary hearing and ordered them to be held on \$500,000 bail.

Police said that the two men worked as a pair, picking up their victims in areas of Hollywood and Los Angeles where homosexuals gathered.

Up till 1975 police had been mystified by the discovery of a series of dismembered bodies in southern California since 1970. But in April that year they felt they had firm evidence that the killings were linked.

Ten corpses found in Long Beach in 1975 were so badly dismembered that the killings were given the code name "the jigsaw murders".

Other victims were found naked with bullet wounds in the head. Some had been sexually assaulted. All were disposed of in thick plastic bags normally used for rubbish.

"Robbery did not figure as a motive, only sex," a police spokesman said.

Police said that before he grabbed the bus Robinson, a small man with mutton-chop whiskers, had been returning to Bath, Maine, where his ship, the supply vessel Detroit, was being overhauled.

Police said he had come from Panama to New York in 1964.

According to an affidavit filed in court here today, police discovered a hacksaw stained with Lamay's dried blood when they went to the Los Angeles suburban home where Kearney and Hill had lived together for seven years.

The two fled to Texas before police could arrest them. But they gave themselves up last Friday, walking into the sheriff's office here and pointing to the wanted posters showing their pictures.

Yesterday Kearney and Hill went with police to identify six grave sites near the Mexican border.

Sheriff Ben Clark told a press conference after today's hearing that the pair had been linked to 28 possible murders either through their own confessions or police evidence. But he believed there would be sufficient proof to prosecute in only 15 cases.

"Gathering evidence may be difficult," he told reporters.

A group of Texan homosexuals was arrested in 1973 and two convicted for the biggest mass murder in American history -- 27 teenagers tortured and killed in the Houston area.

Earlier that year Mexican-born farm labour contractor Juan Corona was jailed for life for the murder of 25 migrant workers, whose bodies he buried in orchards in central California.

Lawyer says he may be mentally ill Kennedy Airport bus hijacker charged with murder, kidnapping

NEW YORK, July 6 (R). — A young U.S. navy sailor was charged with murder and kidnapping last night after hijacking a bus to Kennedy Airport, shooting dead two hostages and holding other passengers for nine hours.

Luis Robinson, 26, a Panamanian-born black, was sent to hospital for psychiatric examination after a brief appearance in court.

He faces two charges of murder, two of attempted murder, 25 charges of kidnapping, possession of a deadly weapon and the reckless endangerment of passengers and police. Robinson, who told his hostages that he had been racially mistreated, surrendered to police shortly before midnight yesterday after they rammed the bus with an armoured vehicle on the apron at Kennedy Airport.

He will appear before the court again on Aug. 4. Robinson's lawyer, Mr. David Addison, told Reuters that his client would plead not guilty if he is judged mentally competent to stand trial.

Mr. Addison said Robinson had been sent to a mental institution in 1973 for 10 days for treatment of "emotional problems".

After that he received treatment as an out-patient for an undetermined period.

The lawyer declined to elaborate on his client's mental history but he said that the seaman had never been involved in violent crime before. He had been arrested once previously, for driving with a suspended licence.

Mr. Robinson drew a pistol and grabbed the bus with 26 people aboard on a highway in the Bronx Monday afternoon.

Air traffic was disrupted for hours as Robinson bargained

for six million dollars and a flight to Cuba.

"He was upset about the racial situation and talked about how badly he was treated in the United States and how he wanted to leave," reported one hostage, John McGovern, who was shot and slightly wounded in the neck. He said Robinson screamed at the passengers.

Passengers said Robinson had suddenly appeared in the aisle of the bus brandishing a .32 pistol. According to police, he fired one shot which struck Mr. McGovern.

He ordered the driver, Norman Bozick, to turn the bus round and head for Kennedy Airport and commanded whites and blacks aboard to move to separate sections.

On the way to the airport, the gunman fatally shot both Mr. Bozick and a 60-year-old woman who, passengers said, tried to disarm him.

Robinson, who now drove the bus himself, dumped the woman's body on a runway and released 13 hostages, including Mr. Bozick who died in hospital.

Police established a communications link and then the bus drew up to a waiting DC-8 jetliner, made ready after Robinson had demanded to fly to Cuba.

Subsequently, several shots were fired inside the bus. Mr. McGovern was permitted to leave with a second wounded man, identified as Jimmy Lo, 36, said to be a Hong Kong businessman. Mr. Lo was listed in critical condition.

Next, a hitch developed in the bargaining and the bus again careened wildly across Kennedy Airport before police rammed it with an armoured personnel carrier. Robinson firing his pistol out of a window and surrendered.

News Focus Damascus bomb blast hinders efforts to reconcile Syria, Iraq

AMMAN, July 6 (R). — Reported efforts to bring about a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq have received a setback because of the car bomb explosion in Damascus Monday night.

Mediation efforts between the two countries, ruled by rival factions of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, are reportedly underway by the Soviet Union, the Libyan Jamahiriya and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

But each of the mediating parties has its own motives. The Soviet Union -- though its mediation has been denied by the Iraqi Information Minister Tariq Aziz -- is a friend of both countries and as such can serve its own interests in the area.

The Libyan Jamahiriya says it wants a solid Arab front against Israel and the PLO, which also has a similar motive as the Libyans, wants to have its relations with Syria further strengthened.

Immediately after the explosion, in which according to a Syrian official announcement one man was killed and 12 others wounded, Syria launched a strongly worded statement

blaming Iraq for the attack, near Al Sharq Hospital. The statement said that Iraq wanted "to terrorise citizens, kill innocent people and undermine Syria's firmness in the face of the Zionist enemy."

The statement could well offend Iraq and upset efforts at mediation between the two countries, according to well-informed sources here.

According to the statement the remnants of the dead victim, who was not identified, were found inside the wrecked car and documents found indicated that the "assassins" regime in Baghdad was behind the crime.

The car bomb exploded some 100 metres across the street from the air force headquarters, 80 metres from an air force training school and about 100 on the same side of the street from the Iraqi ambassador's residence, according to people well acquainted with the Syrian capital.

The fact that the remains of a victim were found in the car suggested that the bomb went off prematurely and that Al Sharq Hospital was not its prime target.

Last night's terrorist act was the latest in a series in which at least a dozen people were killed. All the attacks have been blamed on Iraq.

The president of Damascus University, Dr. Mohammad Al Fadhil who belonged to the same Muslim Alawite sect as President Hafez Al Assad was shot dead by a motorcyclist inside the university campus last March.

Syria's missiles commander, Col. Abdul Karim Razzouk was also killed near his home in the Mezza quarter of Damascus.

In September last year at least four people were killed in a terrorist attack against the Semiramis Hotel in the centre of Damascus, and early in December there was an abortive attempt on the life of Syria's deputy premier Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Mr. Khaddam sustained wounds in the shoulder and neck. Other people were killed in bomb blasts in Aleppo, northern Syria, Latakia on the Mediterranean coast, and Hama, central Syria.

Damascus was ruthless in dealing with the terrorists and at least seven people were

East Chinese town brought back into line

PEKING, July 6 (R). — Wenchow, a town that turned its back on communism during last summer's factional unrest, has been brought back into line by a tough law and order campaign, the People's Daily reported today.

The official newspaper said people in Wenchow, a prefecture in east China's Chekiang province, had been subjected to 1,000 "struggle and criticism" sessions.

More than 10,000 cadres (officials) had been sent to rural areas to manage the movement, the front-page report added. And "the dictatorship of the proletariat" had been exercised over "beating, smashing and looting elements, civil outlaws, embezzlers and grafters."

Exercising the "dictatorship of the proletariat" is Peking's euphemism for severe punishment or execution.

Wenchow was a centre of violence and factionalism before last October's purge of leftist leaders grouped around Mao Tse-tung's widow, Chiang Ching.

Communes there were reported to have broken up and a black market system evolved as the official supply system disintegrated.

UNITA wants to create new Vietnam in Angola

LISBON, July 6 (R). — UNITA, one of Angola's three rival nationalist movements, plans to cause another Vietnam situation by proclaiming a republic in the south of the country, the movement's foreign relations spokesman was quoted here as saying.

UNITA representative Jorge Sangumba was quoted by the Lisbon daily Diario de Noticias as saying UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi had sent him on a mission to seek the support of moderate African states for the new republic, to be called the Black African and Socialist Republic of Angola.

Proclamation of a new republic was part of UNITA's struggle against the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), he said.

According to Mr. Sangumba, who visited Lisbon on his way

to Africa, the territory would lie mostly south of the 11th parallel from around the port of Novo Redondo on the Angolan coast to Teixeira de Sousa in the east, taking in the Benguela railway.

Forces of UNITA -- the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola -- say they control much of this area. Another movement, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) says it controls large tracts of territory in north and northeast Angola.

Mr. Sangumba, who is responsible for UNITA's foreign relations, claimed the support of China for his movement.

Asked if there was not the danger of a new Katanga or Biafra-type situation in Angola, Mr. Sangumba said "No, we are going to create a new Vietnam."

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* LIMA, July 6 (R). — Four hijackers who seized a Chilean plane yesterday and forced it to fly here were given refuge last night in the Venezuelan embassy after surrendering to Peruvian authorities, Venezuelan Ambassador Luis Ordoñez said here. The ambassador told newsmen the hijackers, including a woman, were given "protection" in the embassy pending negotiations to grant them political asylum in Venezuela. Officials earlier quoted the hijackers as saying they seized the Ladoce airline Boeing 727 while on a domestic flight from Arica to Santiago in Chile to demand the release of two political prisoners who are being held in Chile.